



April 6, 2023

Mr. Lewis Carter, Director  
House Legislative Oversight Committee

Dear Mr. Carter,

Thank you for your question regarding the history of the 10 planning and service areas used by the Department on Aging. In an Executive Order dated March 12, 1969, Governor Robert E. McNair divided the state into 10 districts partly in response to a change in federal policy. This change was intended to help facilitate the distribution of federal grant funding to the states. Subsequently, in the November 12, 1969, meeting minutes of the Interagency Council on Aging, which was responsible for the distribution of grant funds, Chairman Boyd reported that "the Governor had by executive order divided the state into ten districts." The minutes of that meeting note that the Executive Committee had discussed the issue at its meeting on September 3. Mr. M.L. McHugh moved that the Council accept the ten districts created by the Governor, which was seconded by Mr. Leon W. Reddy and unanimously approved.

As a matter of interest, the 10 districts had increased in number to 14 by 1990. They were once again reduced to 10 in 1991, as the result of a study conducted by the Commission on Aging.

I hope that this is helpful. Please let me know if we may be of service in the future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "W. Eric Emerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

W. Eric Emerson, Ph.D.  
Director, SHPO, and State Archivist

